(c) whether any enquiry is being conducted to find out the culprits of these riots;

(d) if so, persons given responsibility of enquiry in each case; and

(e) the details of those persons who are enquiring into these incidents what are themselves coming under the purview of Government enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (b) As per available information, during the last six months (i.e. May to October, 2005) one communal riot took place at Mau town in Uttar Pradesh in October, 2005.

Under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects and registration of cases, investigation and prosecution are the primary concern of the State Governments. Hence, details in respect of enquiry ordered, persons given responsibility of enquiry in each case and the details of those persons who are enquiring into these incidents, etc. are not maintained Centrally by the Government. As per information received from the state Government of Uttar Pradesh the inquiry into the communal violence at Mau has been entrusted to Smt. Neera Yadav, Chairperson, Uttar Pradesh Board of Revenue and assisted by Ms. Surjit Kaur Sandhu, Principal Secretary (Housing) and Shri S.A.A. Rizvi, Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

Import-Export GAP

†*107. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imports in the country are increasing more than exports;

(b) if so, the value of imports and exports done in the country during first six months of the year 2005-06; and

(c) the value of crude oil imported in the country and whether it is a fact that the foreign trade of the country is running in losses due to gap between import and export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) During the first six months of the current financial year 2005-06 (April-September) imports (including oil) valued at US $ 63.6 billion, grew by 33 per cent, whereas exports valued at US $ 43.2 billion increased

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by 21 per cent. Oil imports during this period amounted to US $ 20.8 billion and non-oil imports amounted to US $ 42.7 billion. The total value of exports was greater than the value of non-oil imports. The higher rate of growth of imports was largely on account of spurt in oil prices in the international market and growing demand for capital goods and inputs for the manufacturing sector.

Declaration of MES as Inter service organisation

*108. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Military Engineering Service has been treated as an Inter Service Organisation by including the same as such in the Annual Report of Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not declaring the service as an ISO formally and keeping it under the Engineer-in-Chief;

(c) whether Government are considering and proposal in this regard;

(d) if so, what is its status and likely time by when it will be finalised; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHEJEE): (a) to (e) The Military Engineering Services has been mentioned as one of the Inter Service Organisations in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Defence, 2004-05 as it provides works support to all the three services. The Engineer-in-Chief of the Army is the head of Corps. of Engineers and Military Engineering services as per the notification of the Ministry of Defence. Military Engineering Services has been raised to fulfill the operational requirements of the armed forces and to support their combat effectiveness. Most of the works executed by Military Engineering Services are defence oriented. Hence, continuation of the present system is justified.

Export of vegetable oils

*109. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of vegetable oils has been made free and export restrictions on groundnut oil has been removed;

(b) if so, the quantities of different vegetable oils exported during 2004-05; and